

Serial No. 10/811,131

Atty Docket DP-300926

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In order to address the objections of the Office Action and more clearly claim Applicants' invention, Applicants have amended the disclosure and claim 15 to change all occurrences of "endcone" and "end-cone" to "end cone" for clarity and consistency. Additionally, Applicants have amended the disclosure and claim 8 to change all occurrences of "endplate" and "end-plate" to "end plate" for clarity and consistency. Furthermore, Applicants have amended the disclosure and claim 4 to change all occurrences of "closed-coupled" to "close-coupled" for clarity and consistency. Lastly, Applicants have amended claim 14 to change its dependency from claim 11 to claim 13. This amendment does not add new matter. Applicants request that this amendment be entered without prejudice.

The Office Action objects to the disclosure because the words "endcone" and "end cone" are used throughout the disclosure. As mentioned previously, Applicants have amended the disclosure to change all occurrences of "endcone" to "end cone" for clarity and consistency. Applicants submit that this amendment addresses and overcomes the objection, and therefore respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

The Office Action objects to claims 8 and 15 because of the use of the words "endcone" in claim 8 and "endplate" in claim 15. As mentioned previously, Applicants have amended claim 8 to replace "endcone" with end cone, and claim 15 has been amended to replace "endplate" with "end plate". Applicants submit that this amendment addresses and overcomes the objection, and therefore respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claim 14 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. This rejection is believed to be obviated by the above

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amendment. Claim 14 has been amended to change its dependency from claim 11 to claim 13. This amendment provides antecedent basis for the under floor converter recited in claim 14. Applicants submit that this amendment addresses and overcomes the rejection, and therefore respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-12, and 16-18 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mogi (JP 10-244167) in view of Maus et al. (5,173,267). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Mogi teaches each and every element of Applicants' invention with the exception of a catalytic converter. However, Mogi also fails to disclose a catalyst substrate having at least 70 weight percent of the catalyst disposed at a core of the substrate where the core diameter is less than or equal to 63% of the overall substrate diameter. In paragraph 0007, Mogi teaches that the area ratio of the layer of the core (element 2 in the figure) to the total cross-section is 5% to 50%. In paragraph 0011, Mogi discloses a three-layer structure where the innermost core may be 0-20% of the overall cross-section and the middle layer may be 30-70% of the total cross-section. Mogi discloses using different catalysts in the different layers. Mogi also discloses that their substrate has a larger number of cells at the center than at the periphery, but there is no disclosure or suggestion in either of the cited references of a catalyst substrate having at least 70 weight percent of the catalyst disposed at a core of the substrate where the core diameter is less than or equal to 63% of the overall substrate diameter, as required by Applicants' claimed invention. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 4 and 13-14 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mogi (JP 10-244167) and Maus et al. (5,173,267) as applied to claims 1 and

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11, and further in view of Heck et al. (Automobile Exhaust Catalysts). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As the Office Action correctly points out, claim 4 depends from claim 1, and claims 13-14 depend from claim 11. In light of the remarks made previously which demonstrate that claims 1 and 11 are allowable, Applicants submit that claims 4 and 13-14 are also allowable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 8-9 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mogi (JP 10-244167) and Maus et al. (5,173,267) as applied to claim 1, and further in view of LaBarge et al. (2002/0081252 A1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As the Office Action correctly points out, claim 8 depends from claim 1. In light of the remarks made previously which demonstrate that claim 1 is allowable, Applicants submit that claim 8 and claim 9, which depends from claim 8, are also allowable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claim 15 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mogi (JP 10-244167), Maus et al. (5,173,267), and Heck (Automobile Exhaust Catalysts) as applied to claim 14, and further in view of LaBarge et al. (2002/0081252 A1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As the Office Action correctly points out, claim 15 depends from claim 14. In light of the remarks made previously which demonstrate that claim 14 is allowable, Applicants submit that claim 15 is also allowable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

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It is believed, in view of the amendments and remarks herein, that all grounds of objection and rejection of the disclosure and claims have been addressed and overcome, and that all claims are in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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